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Business Courses Put to Good Use

Turkmenistan's youth acquire knowledge and skills for their career development from a USAID-supported program.



Nadezhda Dzhumamuradova at the Junior Achievement camp in Tajikistan in 2006.

“Acquired knowledge helps me and my family to successfully work and develop business.”

— Nadezhda Dzhumamuradova

Nadezhda is an administrator and accountant at “Centorium,” a small business that the young woman’s family established in 2004. This successful company produces and sells products made of honey. Beside regular entrepreneurial activities “Centorium” organizes trade fairs for Turkmenistan honey producers and sellers. Nadezhda has been the initiator and organizer of these fairs that involve farmers and small businesses from all over the country.

Nadezhda says she owes her business and organizing skills to the Junior Achievement programs, funded by USAID. She got first acquainted with Junior Achievement programs in 2004, when she studied at the School of Economics and Business. The school offered a Junior Achievement course on fundamentals of economics and business ethics, and the young woman found this to be a valuable opportunity to expand her knowledge. After school she also attended economics courses at the education center “Keyik Okara,” specializing in vocational training courses for under-served youth in Turkmenistan. The center routinely conducts courses using Junior Achievement program methodologies and materials; its teachers have been trained by Junior Achievement.

In 2006, Nadezhda learned about a variety of Junior Achievement programs (Economics, Management and Economics Simulation, Student Company, and Global Business Ethics) at an international economics summer camp in Tajikistan. At this camp, organized by Junior Achievement and OSCE, the young Turkmen women exchanged knowledge and experiences with high school students and volunteers from all over Central Asia via practical games and classes.

Now Nadezhda is an active participant of Junior Achievement programs. She works as a volunteer of “Keyik Okara” education center and is preparing to become a trainer for the Junior Achievement Banks in Action program at the center. She is also a member of the Junior Achievement Alumni Club and together with other alumni helps Junior Achievement to organize student company fairs and serve as mentors for the participating school companies.

“I am very happy that I had an opportunity to study Junior Achievement programs. First of all, acquired knowledge helps my family and me to successfully work and develop our business. In addition, the skills gained through Junior Achievement programs helped me to become more active, motivated, and confident. I use these skills to work with people. I am also determined to continue my education. I want to continue studying economics and business and share my knowledge with other kids at “Keyik Okara” center, -says Nadezhda.